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3 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Communications Support for Weather Central

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Communications Officer, From Weather Officer, 1 May 1956.

1. The referenced memorandum outlines communications transit time standards which are required for delivery of weather messages to the overseas detachments. It is thought that this is an opportune time to describe the communications situation at the Weather Central in order to alert Project Operations regarding the capability of this office to meet weather communications requirements.

2. Authorization was recently granted to obtain the necessary cryptographers from USAF for the Weather Central and a memorandum requesting the USAF personnel has been forwarded to Colonel Berg. Although Colonel Berg is informally aware of this requirement, the process of selecting, clearing and assigning these personnel will undoubtedly take several weeks. In the interim period of time, this office has been authorized to utilize the full time services of a cryptographer from the Office of Communications who previously was temporarily assigned to the Weather Central. An attempt to augment this one person with a cryptographically trained radio technician was defeated because of special clearance problems. Deployment of a cryptographer from the "H" Street Signal Center would create difficulties in processing Operations Center traffic and this source should not be considered for staffing the Weather Central Signal Center. Therefore, this office is able to furnish only a single cryptographer to Weather Central pending the assignment of the USAF cryptographers.

3. The delivery times for weather messages as specified by the Weather Officer are unrealistic. To begin with, acting on information presented to the undersigned, a landline teletype circuit was installed between the Weather Central and "H" Street as it was originally planned for all weather messages to be transmitted to "H" Street for inclusion in operational messages as desired. This imposes a relay delay as the "H" Street Signal Center must receive and then forward the weather messages addressed to the overseas detachments. The most critical factor, however, is the time represented in processing a 400 - 800 group message. Experience indicates that a trained cryptographer requires an average of about 45 minutes to encipher such a message. Added to this, the delays in transmitting via 60 WPM printers will further extend this time to probably 1 1/2 hours under favorable conditions.

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This measure would speed up the encryption process considerably.

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6. A series of test messages from the Weather Central to the overseas detachment [redacted] will commence 8 May with the one assigned cryptographer. An evaluation of transit time delays will be presented to the Operations Officer as soon thereafter as possible so that compensations can be made for the inherent delay times in the delivery of weather messages.

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[redacted]
Project Communications Officer

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Orig & 1 - Forward
3 - [redacted]
4 - Admin Chrono
5 - Admin Pending
6 - Comm Chrono
7 - Comm Q/S
8 - Comm WCEB

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